

Oswego. 17. August. 1836

Dear Gray. Yours of the 9<sup>th</sup> inst was received Monday morning last and I take the first opportunity to reply to it. I have been thinking much of your South Sea & Pacific scientific Expedition since your letter came to hand and have made up my mind pretty clearly

I should go I believe if I were in your situation if there is nothing in your present situation & circumstances different from what I now know or imagine -

The advantages to be derived from taking a principal part (I would take no other) in such an Expedition are considerable. You will reap a harvest of Knowledge & such as you desire unless my idea of the matter is incorrect. You will obtain an enviable celebrity & reputation in the scientific world. For an ordinary man going to ends of the earth upon such an

emand. under the patronage of the government  
- as one of the principals. though he should  
perform his duty with only ordinary ability  
would see after for this alone maintain a  
high rank in the scientific world  
You can if you please with Gods blessing  
do much more than that. It will be  
to you but a step in the ladder

The compensation is not trifling either  
\$1500. and your ration - You will if  
you three years lay up about \$4000. I  
should think. For I dont understand  
that you will be under the necessity of  
expending anything for apparatus &  
& you cannot if you would lay out much  
for the necessaries or luxuries of life. If  
you should return so as to spend any  
time in Europe you would then have an  
opportunity of spending money as you  
have long wished to spend it - But I  
will not say more now than merely that  
my presents impressions are in favor of you

taking it or even seeking it.

I am prosperous in all my worldly affairs all things considered. Real Estate is dull & heavy but I have not more on my hands than I can carry: for that reason I am well off & much better than my neighbors - some of them. My health is tolerable good but I much wish it was better. My internal disease is no better than it was last summer that I know of. My stomach is out of order often. head-ache occasionally do not sleep quietly nights at no time

Most of the time however I am in tolerable condition & spirits -

I have been very - very busy all summer, cares & anxieties have increased so much by far. My business affairs have been pressing all summer. Getting better now - I should be very glad if you could come out here if only for a day before you return to the city. Do come if possible - At any rate write me soon & before you go to N. Y. again.

Yours Ever

Seander Babcock

10

Dr. A. Gray  
Saugus  
Pineida Co.

